Pakistani offer to accord MFN status to India

2248. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Pakistan had offerd to accord India the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) whether Government have also offered to grant MFN status to Pakistan and the resultant trade relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Being a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), India grants MFN status to all WTO members including Pakistan. While India has not put any restriction on import from Pakistan, Pakistan allows import of only a small positive list of 600 items from India. Recently Pakistan has issued notification adding 78 more items to this positive list.

Monitoring mechanism for ISO Certification

2249. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government departments are instructing their units to seek ISO 9000 and 14001 certification;

(b) if so, in the absence of any statutory monitoring mechanism to check the veracity of ISO certifying agencies, what would be the worth of such certificates;

(c) whether Government propose to set up a foolproof mechanism to ensure the validity and authenticity of every ISO certificate issued in the country; and

(d) if not, whether ISO certificates would not loose all credibility not only in India but even in the international markets?